8-7-84

GAZETTE, Haverhill, MA - Aug. 7, 1984 CR: B. Greenwood

No answer to UFO mystery

By JIM LENANE
Gazette staff writer

Weather researchers and Air Force officials say they are not responsible for the numerous reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in Haverhill during the past nine days.

The Haverhill Gazette has contacted the U.S. Weather Service, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Air Force, and all three agencies deny any knowledge of tests or any activities which would explain the consistent reports from Haverhill residents of bright lights in the sky dropping off or shooting down balls of fire.

A Haverhill resident who spoke with Dr. Alan Hynek of the Center for UFO Sightings in Evanston, Ill., a recognized expert in the UFO field, suggested that the U.S. Weather Bureau was sending up rockets to test the ozone layer with periodic firings of flares, but the weather service said this morning it is not performing any such experiments.

Spokesperson Tina Saarlac in Washington said,"I have checked with our agency and nothing of this type is going on at this time. I suggest that you try the Air Force or NASA."

James Elliot, public relations contact for NASA said he was unaware of any NASA testing which could be seen regularly in the North of Boston area, but he referred the reporter to NASA's Wallop's Island test center in Wallops Island, Va.

Joyce Milliner, public relations officer at the Wallops Island center, where periodically rockets are sent up distributing barium or sodium clouds to form colorful displays in the sky as part of various experiments, but Milliner said nothing has been sent up which could be seen in the Haverhill area.

"We sent up a rocket last night but it carried no chemicals, and it could not be seen with the naked eye and certainly could not be seen in your area."

She said a rocket with a load of chemicals for space display was sent up Aug. 1, "But they could not be seen without special equipment also."

The Wallop's Island rockets, classified as "suborbital" can seldom been seen over wide areas. "But when we do have one with a large, colorful cloud we try to send out a notice through the media two weeks in advance," she said. "Nonetheless, we still receive UFO reports when we send these up."

Meanwhile, Barry J. Greenwood of Stoneham, an officer of the Mutual UFO Network, an international UFO study organization with its home office in Seguin, Texas, is planning to have an investigator come to Haverhill to study the rash of UFO sightings.

Greenwood, who is co-author with Lawrence Fawcett of a new book on government involvement with UFOs, "Clear Intent," said his group will reserve opinion on the Haverhill sightings until a complete study is made and its results evaluated.

"We try as hard as we can to be objective and scientific in our approach. We first try to discredit the reports, to see if there is any readily apparent falseness involved. A certain number of reports are eliminated in that way."

The many reports which are not related to explainable causes then become Unidentified Flying Objects "Many reports lead to identified fying objects, aircraft, balloons, natural phenomena, and no longer are of interest beyond being background for future investigations," Greenwood said Monday.

All reports said the lighted object and exuded lights have moved slowly across the sky. Some reports described the objects sent off by the larger light as fiery, and others have said they were lighted but not fiery.